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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel  
Monday - 24 May 1971

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11. [ ] Closed out the inquiry of Jack Norpel, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee Staff (see Journal of 12 May), by telling him that we would be handling directly with the Internal Revenue Service whatever contact is necessary. [ ] WH Division, will take whatever followup action is necessary through the Office of General Counsel.

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12. [ ] Talked to Mrs. Lois G. Myers, Employee Benefits Subcommittee staff, about the Committee breakfast at the Agency for Wednesday, 9 June. I told her that if it would help the members, I would arrange transportation to pick them up at 7:30 a.m. at the New Jersey and "C" street entrance to the Cannon Building and return them to the Hill after the breakfast. Mrs. Myers thought this would be most helpful for possibly as many as five of the members. She will resurvey the entire membership during the first part of the week and be back in touch.

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13. [ ] Placed an order for the transcript for the testimony today before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the proposed legislation concerning funding of RFE and RL with Mr. Wayne Birdsall of the reporting firm of Ward & Paul. Mr. Birdsall told me they are still having trouble on timely completion of transcripts and will have to call me about delivery of the transcript.

14. (Unclassified - JGO) Received a call from Mr. William Sullivan, in the office of Senator Bob Dole (R., Kansas), who asked if we could verify

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## Case Says U.S. Secretly Pays Costs of Thai Troops in Laos

By Murrey Marder  
Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States is secretly paying "through CIA" for the costs of "four to six thousand Thai troops in Laos" without any direct action by Congress, Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) said yesterday.

Case called on the administration for "the specific terms of the agreement," which he said he first read about in the press last month. "Congress has never directly voted a penny to pay Thai troops in Laos," said Case, and both Congress and the public have "a right to know" what is happening.

Thailand has denied having any troops in Laos; its officials

have said only that there may be Thai "volunteers" or "ethnic Thais" serving in Laos. U.S. officials have been publicly silent on the subject, except to refer back to the elliptical Thai statements.

Case finally got a reply yesterday to a letter he sent on April 23 to the State Department—but he said the reply was marked secret.

The substance of the reply to Case, according to State Department spokesman Charles W. Bray, was that "nothing is being done that is not within present legislative authority." Bray said the subject had been discussed in closed session with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which Case is a member, and State could discuss the matter further only in the same manner.

Case said last night that "I'm still not satisfied . . . We should have been advised before the thing started, rather than having it dribble out afterwards in a way in which we can do little more than wring our hands."

The senator said that as he recalls, the subject of Thai units in Laos was only "touched on" by Central Intelligence Agency director Richard Helms, in a closed meeting.

After reading press accounts last month about a new U.S.-Thai agreement "for a sharp increase in Thai troops to be used in Laos," said Case, he made his own inquiries.

"I was able to ascertain," said Case, "on an absolutely not for quotation basis, from government sources that there

are four to six thousand Thai troops in Laos and the U.S. government, through CIA, is paying for them."

Case said that "If an action by our country cannot stand up to public exposure, then our leaders should seriously reconsider that action."

His letter to Secretary of State William P. Rogers asked if financial support for Thai troops in Laos violated a congressional ban on payment of mercenaries in Laos except to aid American troop withdrawals or aid in release of U.S. prisoners; the terms of the Thai agreement, and whether the United States agreed to provide support "in event the Thai troops in Laos encounter difficulties."

# Case Says CIA Pays 'Army'

Associated Press

Sen. Clifford P. Case has accused the Central Intelligence Agency of violating a congressional ban by secretly financing mercenary soldiers in Laos.

The New Jersey Republican said in a Senate speech yesterday he had learned from government sources "there are 4,000 to 6,000 Thai troops in Laos and the U.S. government, through the CIA, is paying them."

## Congressional Curb

"There are presumably government funds being paid to Thailand," he said. "But Congress has never voted a penny to pay Thai troops in Laos."

Congress last year prohibited payment of U.S. funds for mercenaries in Laos, except to help free American prisoners of war or facilitate U.S. troop withdrawals.

Case is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, which met in closed session today to hear a report on Thai operations in Laos from two staff aides, James Lowenstein and Richard Moose, just back from Indochina.

Case said he asked Undersecretary of State John Irwin about the mercenary issue at a hearing May 3 and was told: "Any discussion of the Thai troops would be proper for an executive session."

## Writes to Rogers

Case said he wrote Secretary of State William P. Rogers about it a month ago and has not received an answer.

"I am sure that at some future time," Case said, "an administration representative will sit down with the Foreign Relations Committee behind locked doors and inform us how and why the United States is paying for Thai troops in Laos."

"But this will be months after the fact, and we shall undoubtedly be told about an ongoing program which would be difficult to stop even if we were so inclined."